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**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS
ANNUAL ORDINANCE FOR 2013 APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL**

City Council today approved the annual ordinance giving the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) the authority to enter into contracts outside of the traditional RFP process in order to book musical talent and other artists into events such as Chicago Blues Festival, Taste of Chicago, Chicago Jazz Festival, SummerDance and World Music Festival.

New this year is a section that will allow DCASE to rent its facilities at no or reduced cost to theater groups, performers, entities promoting the arts, artists and arts organization for performances or exhibits. Facilities include rooms and theaters in the Chicago Cultural Center, the stage at the Pritzker Pavilion, Expo 72 at 72 East Randolph and the City Gallery.

Additionally, language was added to allow the Commissioner accept financial and in-kind grants to support the Department and its programs. The use of these funds will be subject to appropriation by City Council.

Finally, should the department choose to use an electronic format for ticketing food and beverage at lakefront festivals such as Taste of Chicago or the Chicago Blues Festival, new language has been added to allow the department to pursue that option.

There were no other major changes to ordinance.

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